

# Village Views

May 2020

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF ACTON BURNELL, PITCHFORD, FRODESLEY, RUCKLEY AND LANGLEY



We hope you will enjoy this second edition of Virtual Village Views. While social distancing remains in place, we will continue to produce a digital edition, to avoid any unnecessary contact. As before, if you are aware of any neighbours who do not have access to the internet, please feel free to print off a copy for them to read (as long as you can do so without placing yourself or them at any risk). You can also download a copy to email to friends if you wish.

All the information contained in this edition has been checked as far as possible and is correct as of 13th May. However, we do encourage you to always double check for yourself.

If there is anything special you would like to see included in a future edition, please contact us at [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com). Articles, photographs, artwork and ideas for features are always welcome.

Take care and stay safe!

The Village Views Team

## CHURCH BELLS

The church bells at St Mary's In Acton Burnell and St Mark's in Frodesley will be rung every Sunday morning at 10.00am while our churches remain closed due to Covid-19. Take a moment to step outside and enjoy the sound of the bells as they ring out over the countryside. A reminder of happier and less stressful times!

## GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

The latest Government guidance on what you can and can't do during the Covid-19 outbreak can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do)

### INFORMATION FROM THE NHS

The current NHS advice (as of 13th May) is available at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

As before, if you need medical help for any reason, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus/Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell), use the 111 coronavirus service ([111.nhs.uk/service/COVID-19/](http://111.nhs.uk/service/COVID-19/))

If you need help or advice not related to coronavirus:

- For health information and advice, use the NHS website or your GP surgery website
- For urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service ([111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)) – only call 111 if you're unable to get help online
- For life-threatening emergencies, call 999 for an ambulance

Local medical practices are asking patients to use the E-consult on-line advice service wherever possible (you will find details of this on your GP's website), with telephone appointments or face-to-face appointments being offered only where necessary. E-consult can link you to general NHS advice on your condition or can be used to get personal advice from your pharmacy or GP.

### IF YOU NEED HELP

**Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Teams (CRT)** can also be contacted if you need emergency support, are classed as vulnerable, need help with accessing food or medication and are not able to find any other support. Please call 0345 678 9028, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. All callers will be required to explain their need and, if required, this information will be passed on to the appropriate support.

**NHS Every Mind Matters** website at [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/) for help and advice on coping with anxiety and stress.

**Samaritans** for a listening ear day or night call 116 123.

**West Mercia Women's Aid** can offer telephone support and advice to those at risk of domestic violence and abuse on 0800 783 1359.

**National Domestic Abuse** helpline can be reached on 0808 2000 247.

**Respect** on 0808 8010327 and **Mankind** on 01823 334244 offer support to men suffering domestic violence or abuse.

**Childline** provides confidential telephone advice on 0800 1111.

**Silverline** can be contacted on 0800 4708090 at any time for older people needing advice or a friendly listening ear.

## LOCAL FOOD SUPPLIERS

Lots of companies are now offering home deliveries. The list below is not exhaustive but includes some of the local businesses we know are delivering to this area. If you know of any that we have missed, please email me at [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) and we will make sure they are included in the next edition.

Shropshire Council has also produced an interactive map which can also be used to identify local food providers and food delivery services. This can be found at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/food-provision/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/food-provision/)

### BUTCHERS

**Paddy Ryans of Much Wenlock** are open for collection of orders, and can also deliver. Please call them on 01952 727409 or email using the 'contact' link on their website at [www.ryansofwenlock.co.uk](http://www.ryansofwenlock.co.uk).

**Battlefield Farm Shop** is open and can deliver to our area. They can offer a range of items, including meats, vegetables, dairy items and prepared meals. To place an order for delivery, call 01939 210905 or email [orders@battlefield1403.com](mailto:orders@battlefield1403.com).

Also still open (according to reports!) are:

**Bradley's**, London Road, Shrewsbury offering both butchery and delicatessen products. Contact them by calling 01743 622989 or email [shop@bradleysbutchers.com](mailto:shop@bradleysbutchers.com)

**Sadd's**, Dorrington (01743 718215)

**Hough's**, Church Stretton (01694 722386)

**Ensdon Farm Butchers**, Church Stretton (01694 328137)

### VEGETABLE BOXES

**Rowlands** can deliver fruit and vegetable boxes (also including milk, bread, butter and eggs), and offer a £20 or a £30 box. A range of optional add-ons are also available at £5, and there is a £3 delivery charge. To place an order please call 01743 462244.

**Oakapple Catering** are offering a selection of vegetable, fruit and salad boxes, in addition to their ready meals. Details can be found on the Cheese Nibbles section of their website at [www.cheesenibbles.co.uk](http://www.cheesenibbles.co.uk) Alternatively, call 01694 731305 or email [enquiries@oakapplecatering.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@oakapplecatering.co.uk).

**Shropshire Handy Veg** deliver to our area every Thursday. Choose from one of their fruit and veg boxes, or make your own selection from their extensive produce list. Go to [www.shrewsburyhandyveg.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburyhandyveg.co.uk)

and email your order using the link provided on their website.

**Shropshire Veg Box** offer a range of fruit and vegetable boxes from £20 and deliver to our area on Wednesdays. Go to [www.shropshirevegbox.co.uk/shop](http://www.shropshirevegbox.co.uk/shop) to make your selection.

Please see above for details of **Battlefield Farm Shop**, who are also able to deliver orders of fruit and vegetables.

### READY MEALS

**Oakapple Catering** are continuing to offer ready meals. Details can be found on the Cheese Nibbles section of their website at [www.cheesenibbles.co.uk](http://www.cheesenibbles.co.uk) under 'Fine Dining Delivery'. Alternatively, call 01694 731305 or email [enquiries@oakapplecatering.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@oakapplecatering.co.uk).

**Battlefield Farm Shop** are also offering ready meals (please see above under Butchers).

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Sadly, because of the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual Parish Meeting had to be cancelled. The next one is scheduled for May 2021.

However, through the miracle of modern technology (ie Zoom), the Parish Council did meet for its Annual Meeting on 12 May.

Much time and effort went into getting all Councillors up and running with the IT, but after a few trials and tribulations, it worked perfectly on the night.

Indeed, so well did it work that, like so many other businesses and organizations around the world, this may well be the future. Only time will tell.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting does not have exactly the most taxing of agendas and in reality there is little to discuss, since it sees the appointment of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the formal

adoption of the all the numerous instruments and regulations that govern the way the PC conducts its business and only a couple of other urgent matters that cannot be delayed until subsequent meetings.

On this occasion, John Long was re-elected to serve the last year of his 3-year term of office as Chairman and Paul Harrison was elected as Vice-Chairman, replacing Keith Faulkner.

Keith has served for many years as Chairman of the PC and latterly as Vice-Chairman and his advice and knowledge have been much appreciated and will be much valued in future, as he continues to sit as a 'backbencher'.

The Council's succession planning is such that, when John Long steps down from the role of Chairman next May, Paul Harrison will step up and John will take the Vice-Chairman role for a year to ensure a smooth handover.

Apart from the routine business, the only issue of note was that of the new development at Home Farm Barns, where considerable progress has recently been made in ensuring that the proposed entrances are safe, the bridleway will not have to be closed during the next phase of work and the long-term health and safety of riders and pedestrians is protected. Accordingly, the PC's objection to the development has been removed.

The next Meeting of the PC will be an Extraordinary one at 19.30 on 2 June. This will again be held via Zoom and, should voters wish to 'attend', they should contact their local Councillor and request the login details. Items on the agenda will include the re-cast Annual Governance and Accountability Report (which probably is as boring as it sounds, but is a necessary evil) and the proposed development of the Albert Davies yard for 12 houses.

## MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

The Shropshire Council (SC) full council meeting was on 6th May and held virtually, there was only one item on the agenda which was to remove the statutory obligations for Shropshire councillors to physically attend official SC meetings until Covid-19 has relented. The next full council meeting scheduled at the moment is July 16th. The next SC Cabinet meetings are 1st June and then 15th June and will be held virtually. Members of the public can tune in.

I have put the following question to the Cabinet Member of Highways and Transport for June 1st:

*At its meeting on 19th December 2019, Shropshire Council unanimously passed my motion to support the principle of a 20 mph speed limit outside all schools in the county and asked officers to bring a report to Council within 6 months to consider how this could be implemented. In addition the Government has recently announced a national £2bn package to look at creating a new era for cycling and walking.*

*It strikes me that both schemes, one instigated by Shropshire Council and one instigated by National Government, could be complementary to each other. Please could the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport report on how the council will look to implement the scheme for 20 mph limits outside schools and what the Councils plans are to help create a new era for cycling and walking in Shropshire?*

There is a small grants scheme available to help deal with the effects of Covid-19. Please see [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/resources-and-grant-funding-opportunities-for-local-communities/covid-19-small-grants-programme/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/resources-and-grant-funding-opportunities-for-local-communities/covid-19-small-grants-programme/) for more information. You will note that specifically mentioned are that the grant is available to Village Halls who have suffered loss of income as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. The second tranche of funding of a pot of £25k shuts down with all applications in by May 22nd. There is a then further 3rd and final pot of £25k that will be opened up in June

The 5 SC waste and recycling centres are now open for essential use only. The word essential here is used I think to discourage lots of people coming at once and overwhelming the centres.

The Government has provided SC with around £18m of funding to help SC deal with the extra costs and loss of income suffered by the council as a result of Covid-19. SC estimate the total cost to be in the region of £22m so as you might imagine there is much lobbying going on in the background to fill the gap.

At the end of April SC had processed £56.32m of business grants to 4825 businesses. £91m had been allocated to SC, ringfenced for use on business grants. To give an idea of the scale of what SC has dealt with in grants, there are only 13/314 local authorities in the country that have had more grants to pay out than SC.

Community resource teams were set up by SC, with staff pulled in from different areas of the council, to help facilitate help and support to the Parish Council and local neighbourhood self-help teams that have sprung up. The contact person for Burnell is Mathew Mead, and I speak with him regularly. Please do let me know if there are any Covid-19 related matters the PC would like raising.

It has been good to see more road repairs being completed, in the month of April 4300 potholes were repaired. Much of this work has been done SC's own teams and anecdotally at least it appears to me the speed and quality of work has improved.

Across the 6 parishes of Burnell there are formal and less formal self-help groups that have sprung up. Putting it in general terms I have found that the more rural the settlements and parishes, the less formal the self-help groups appear to be. This feels to me to be a function of the rural areas being more used to getting on with things themselves as there are less facilities around them!

Paul Harrison kindly accepted my request to join the Acton Burnell Facebook page, so please do tell people that I can be reached through that channel.

As always, if you have any questions or matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email ([dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk)), on twitter (@dan4burnell), on Facebook (dan4burnell) or by phone (07902408400).

Dan Morris

### LOCAL CRIME, AND A NEW POLICE OFFICER

There seems to have been an uptick in criminal activity and theft recently in our area, so please do keep vigilant. Over the last few weeks a quad bike, power drills, a trailer and bike amongst other things were stolen in Exfords Green, and thefts also took place in Condover Village and Pulverbatch. Please make sure that you keep your sheds, garages and outbuildings securely locked, and use your Smartwater liquid to mark your belongings if you took part in the scheme.

We are also pleased to say that we have a new local Police Officer, PC Phillip Nock. PC Nock's role is to liaise with the local community, and he can be reached on 07816 226855 or by emailing [phillip.nock@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:phillip.nock@westmercia.pnn.police.uk).





# CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT INFORMATION published by Shropshire Council

Shropshire Council has expanded the information available on its website. Working with other local groups and organisations, Shropshire Council has gathered together new information resources that may be used by individuals or groups and organisations throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

The new information can be found on Shropshire Council's coronavirus pages under 'Information for the public'.

It is likely that more information will follow but more recent additions include a searchable map of local food providers and food delivery services; a map of local social network groups, many established to provide support during the pandemic; a map of support services and information concerning help for those unable to pay energy bills.

Many other topics are also covered ranging from advice from Trading Standards to mental health and advice on managing anxiety.

The interactive maps allow those able to access the internet to focus in on their local area and find out more about the services located nearby. Where known telephone, email and website addresses have been included to help people make contact with any services of interest to them.

## Community Support

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/community-support-services/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/community-support-services/)

## Community Social Networks

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/community-social-networks/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/community-social-networks/)

## Food provision

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/food-provision/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/food-provision/)

## Energy Advice and Other Support

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/other-sources-of-support/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/other-sources-of-support/)

This data has been compiled by Shropshire Council's new Community Reassurance Teams and other members of staff at Shropshire Council (including library services staff). Shropshire Council has set up temporary area-based Community Reassurance Teams (CRT) to support the coordination of local responses during this crisis, the teams are linking to new and existing community groups set up in response to COVID-19, Town and Parish Councils and other organisations. The Teams aim to work with communities to complement and enhance the amazing work already happening to ensure that everyone gets the help and support that they need to stay at home and stay well

and healthy. Over the coming weeks the teams will work to make any necessary changes to the information available to ensure data can be used as effectively as possible.

This information is not designed to replace other long-term information sources on local service provision such as Shropshire Community Directory. The information is based on new information and new services established to support people through the coronavirus pandemic.

## Keep informed and sign up to our daily coronavirus email updates

Shropshire Council wants to keep you as up to date and informed as possible. To help us do this, we have developed a coronavirus update that will be sent daily at 8pm via email to anyone who has signed up to our e-bulletins.

This update includes the day's key Shropshire Council news, and some key news from our partners, relating to coronavirus-linked issues. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for the updates.

Please do encourage your family and friends to sign up to the updates too. This will help us keep everyone up to date with the rapidly-evolving crisis.

## Further Information

Find the new online resources here:

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/)

## A 1950's CELEBRATION OF WHITSUNTIDE

Whitsuntide is a Christian festival, often known as Pentecost and is considered by many to be mother church's birthday. It is held to signify the holy spirit descending to earth in the form of a white dove. White, or Whit Sunday has perhaps got its name from the tradition of people being baptised in white on this day, and thus is it demonstrated by many people wearing white in the parade to church. I fondly remember my mother insisting I wear pristine white ankle socks and sandals as a mark of respect and I have the photos to prove it. Of course, in the ration strapped fifties, it was such a treat to dress up for an occasion and many mothers would beaver away in the weeks before to make themselves and their children new Sunday best outfits to wear especially for Whitsuntide. Of course, to many these days, Whitsuntide is confused with the Spring Bank Holiday which falls roughly around the same time and which came

into being in the 1970's, but it is still worth looking back at its origins which were celebrated differently in all parts of the country.

To celebrate Whit Sunday, in our Yorkshire town, the parade to church was a truly a grand affair. The procession was led by the boy scouts with their trumpets and drums. Behind them came the cubs, brownies and guides in full uniform, the mayor and his entourage and last but not least, from the town and surrounding villages, every denomination of the churches within the area – all gaily waving their banners and smiling at the people as they proudly marched through the bunting bedecked town to the church.

All the churches – C of E, Catholic, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Elim Pentecostal and Salvation Army - made a point of coming together on this special day of the year. Indeed, so much so that we rehearsed for it with

each church putting forward a hymn they would like the congregation to sing. The church service itself were held in the Grand Methodist Hall as it was the only church in town that could accommodate everyone, and the sound of the congregation in full song raised the roof! Moving away from the pomp and ceremony of Sunday, Whit Monday was more of a fun day. Market traders were busy at dawn putting up their stalls in the market square. I can remember the keen competition from all clubs and associations in the town to enter the floats event. In the 1950's, our brownie troupe did a theme "countries of the world" and at the age of seven, I wore my mum's grey fur lined wellie boots, my auntie's long skirt and a spotted red headscarf, and pretended to be a "Russian peasant". My dad concurred that I very much looked the part and that

*Written by a local resident*



# 'Whats on' in Lockdown



Many of the on-line resources listed in the last edition of Village Views are still available, but here are a few new (and free) ones for you to try!

## CATCH UP ON YOUR READING

In addition to borrowing e-books from Shropshire Library (see the last edition of Village Views for more information), Amazon have a number of free Kindle books available to download. This is a chance to re-read old favourites or to get to grips with a classic novel. Go to [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), select Kindle Store, and search for 'free classics', 'free romance', 'free sci-fi', or whatever your genre of choice may be!

You can also download free e-books from Project Gutenberg at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org). These are mostly older books, published before 1924, but include books by many popular writers (such as Agatha Christie and PJ Wodehouse).

## SPEND SOME TIME AT A MUSEUM:

Many of the greatest museums and art galleries in the world are now offering virtual tours. The British Museum, for example, offers you the chance to take a virtual tour or drop into individual rooms to look at specific exhibits. There are also podcasts and digital resources to liven up home schooling. Go to [blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/](http://blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/) to check out what is available.

Can't decide what you fancy? Take a look at [artsandculture.google.com](http://artsandculture.google.com) to see what you can access via 'Google Arts and Culture'. Choose from world heritage sites, street art, museum visits, armchair

travel, gourmet cooking or fashion history. Google's Street View tours even let you plan your own route round some exhibitions and museums. Lots to explore on this website!

## GET MORE FROM YOUR DAILY WALKS:

Identify our local trees using a free tree ID app from The Woodland Trust. Go to [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-id-app/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-id-app/) for more information. If you don't fancy the app, then The Woodland Trust has a handy A-Z guide available on their website at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/).

## LEARN A LANGUAGE:

What better way to get prepared for future holidays than learning a new language? Duolingo ([www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com)) gets you started with a free app that lets you choose your own pace and personalises the course to suit whether you want to learn for business, pleasure, travel or just for fun. Languages available range from Spanish to Swahili, Hindi to Hawaiian, Korean to Klingon!

## FANCY A GOOD SING

The Sofa Singers give you the chance to join other singers via Zoom to belt out some of your favourites (recent numbers include 'Gold' by Spandau Ballet and 'Eternal Flame' by The Bangles). Register for free with Eventbrite to take part in two rehearsals each week. Go to [www.thesofasingers.com/how-to-join-1](http://www.thesofasingers.com/how-to-join-1) for more information.

## SEW SOMETHING SIMPLE

Current advice is that face masks should be worn on public transport and in shops where social distancing is difficult. If you want to have a go at making your own, a simple pattern and step by step guide can be found at [www.makershabitat.com/blogs/the-maker-s-habitat-blog/diy-covid-19-fabric-mask-with-filter-pocket-instructions](http://www.makershabitat.com/blogs/the-maker-s-habitat-blog/diy-covid-19-fabric-mask-with-filter-pocket-instructions)

## SPEND AN EVENING AT THE THEATRE

The National Theatre is continuing its streaming of past performances, with a new play on offer every Thursday on YouTube. Go to [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home) for more information on coming productions.

If you are a fan of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals, you can find a new one each Friday on YouTube. More information by searching for 'The Shows Must Go On' on YouTube.

## PUB QUIZZING:

YouTube is full of quizzing opportunities. The biggest (in terms of participants) is the Virtual Pub Quiz, which takes place every Thursday, conveniently timed to start after the weekly 'clap for key workers'. The same quiz master also runs a number of speciality quizzes (with topics ranging from Game of Thrones to Premier League) and kids' quizzes. Go to [www.youtube.com/channel/UC1cSqiJWHJeDWD\\_SbdorBRw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1cSqiJWHJeDWD_SbdorBRw) or search 'YouTube Original Virtual Pub Quiz' to find the full range of quizzes.

## RECYCLING CENTRES RE-OPEN

Local recycling centres have now re-opened, but for the disposal of essential waste only. Shropshire Council says that this means where keeping the waste at home may cause injury, illness or harm to residents.

Centres in Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Craven Arms, Oswestry and Whitchurch are all now open under their usual opening hours (9am to 5pm seven days a week). Staff will be on duty at the gates and will let you know when it is safe for you to enter the site (in order to comply with social distancing, it may be necessary to queue).

- Anyone who is self-isolating or has COVID-19 symptoms MUST NOT visit any recycling centre

- A strict limit to the number of vehicles allowed on site at any one time
- Only one person per vehicle
- A valid permit will be required for vans and vehicles with trailers to access the sites
- No trade or commercial waste will be accepted. This applies to all vehicles, with or without a permit. Site staff can refuse access to any vehicles believed to be bringing in trade or commercial waste, including any waste brought in by anyone for a payment.
- Residents with vans and trailers who generally use sites in Telford are advised to use Shropshire sites initially as Shropshire Council permits will not be accepted at Telford sites until further notice.
- Only one visit will be allowed per day
- No trade or commercial waste will be accepted
- Asbestos, oils and paints will not be accepted. They will need to be stored safely at home until the recycling centres are able to safely process them.
- The public must respect the strict two-metre rule both from staff and other site users
- Veolia staff will be unable to assist with unloading vehicles
- Walking-in of waste will not be permitted
- Use of the sites is restricted to residents of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin only

## NEW USES FOR THE OLD PHONE BOX

The disused phone box in Acton Burnell has seen considerable action over the last few weeks, acting as a fantastic swap shop for jigsaws, games, books and even roller skates looking for new homes. If you are going to place items for swapping or donating in the box, please consider making it time limited. For example, if you place some books there on a Saturday, let people know that they will be there for a week (for example), and will then be removed. This should give people plenty of time to take a look at what is on offer, but will prevent the box becoming overwhelmed with abandoned donations!



## Scrub caps for the NHS

As you may have noticed from the Acton Burnell Community Facebook page, Helen Crofts has been busy making scrub caps for the NHS. If there is anyone out there who is handy with a needle and would like to help the NHS in this way, you can find links to download a scrub cap pattern at [www.lifebox.org/diy-scrub-cap-holiday-gift/](http://www.lifebox.org/diy-scrub-cap-holiday-gift/)

Helen will be happy to arrange for your completed scrub caps to be forwarded to the Lifebox charity to be distributed to hospitals. You can contact her via Facebook.

The scheme has already made more than 2500 caps for hospitals across the UK.



## Facebook Fans and Facebook Fears

During these tough times, it was felt that we needed some way of keeping as many residents in our area as possible in contact with each other, both for sharing information and as a way of getting help if needed. As such, the Acton Burnell Community Facebook page was set up to facilitate this. What we did not expect is that it would be used for so many fantastic purposes!

Among other things, Facebook has been used to help organise a scarecrow competition, festoon the area in bunting for VE day, find a lost dog, turn the disused telephone box in Acton Burnell into a swap shop, find new homes for surplus plants and source scarce cooking ingredients.

It has also meant that people can share more serious information, such as notifications of suspicious activity in the area, and details of services available to people who may be vulnerable or at risk.

If you are not already a member, please think about joining as it is a way of staying up to date with news in our area and for asking for help if needed or even being able to offer it. It is open to anyone living in Acton Burnell, Pitchford, Frodesley, Ruckley or Langley, or with ties to the area, and the content, including any information you put on to it, can only be seen by people who are approved as members of the group, but more about that later.

Understandably, a lot of people are (quite sensibly) anxious about using Facebook based on issues around privacy. However, there are a few things you can do to keep your personal details private from everyone and anything you 'post' on it away from the eyes of anyone outside the Acton Burnell Community Group.

If you are a Facebook novice then here's how you start: firstly, you will need to sign up for a Facebook account before you can join the group. You can do this by going to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and filling in the 'Create an account' form with your name and mobile number or email address and a password. You need to enter your date of birth to prove you are aged over 13 years, and to select your gender, but don't worry – you can hide this information from others later in the 'Privacy' section of the App. Apart

from those details everything else is optional. You don't need to upload a photo or enter any information on where you live, what schools you attended or any other information.

Once you have set up your profile, you can search for Acton Burnell Community Group in the search box at the top left hand of the page, and then click on 'join' when our page comes up. All applications to join must be approved by one of the Acton Burnell moderators. Please don't try to join the 'Acton Community Group' – they are somewhere near Hartlepool!

Once this is done, if you wish to keep as private as you can, you will need to set your privacy settings so that you decide who can access your personal details. If you are only using Facebook to take part in the Acton Burnell Community page, then you can decide to only post on that page, and that means only other members of the Acton Burnell community group can see what you post. How you do this depends on what device you are using.

So you have now downloaded Facebook, set up your profile and joined the Acton Burnell Community Group. Now it is time to sort out the privacy bit.

On a desktop or laptop computer, you can do this by clicking on the down arrow on the far right of the blue heading bar, selecting 'settings', and then choosing 'privacy' from the menu bar that comes up on the left of the screen. The first question on the 'privacy settings' list is 'Who can see your future posts?' If you select 'friends', this means that only people who you have chosen as your Facebook friends can see things that you post on your Facebook page.

On any Android or Apple phone or tablet, assuming you have downloaded the App and created your account, then the same can be done by going to "View Your Profile" by pressing the 'three dashes' symbol on the 'Home' page and selecting "See your profile". Press the three dots by "Add to Story" and then "View Privacy Shortcuts". Work your way through these and thing should become fairly clear.

You can change your settings at any time, so don't worry if you think you may have selected the wrong options, or if you change your mind about how you want to use Facebook.

There are different views in Facebook and this article is clearly a very basic guide. Should you need any help, then do ask a trusted friend or relative – it will be worth it!

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

*Chris Harrison and John Glover*



## MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HERBERT BENJAMIN EDWARDES K.C.B, K.C.S.I, D.C.L, LL.D.(OXFORD). ADMINISTRATOR, STATESMAN, AND ACCIDENTAL HERO.

Born in Frodesley in 1819, and an orphan before the age of 4, he was brought up in the household of a deeply religious aunt. After an undistinguished boarding school education he studied classics and mathematics at Kings College London. He wanted to go on to Oxford but his guardians disapproved and so with the help of a family friend Sir Richard Jenkins of Bicton Hall he got a cadetship in the Bengal infantry. During his five years as a junior officer with his regiment he gained a good knowledge of Hindustani, Urdu and Persian languages, passing exams in all 3 to become an Interpreter at the age of 26. He developed a deep understanding of military, political and social affairs in India and wrote articles often critical of British Indian policy. These so impressed the Commander in Chief of the Indian army Sir Hugh Gough that he appointed him a member of his staff.

Edwardes was wounded fighting during the 1st Anglo-Sikh War when he was Gough's aide de camp. Gough realized that Edwardes had the making of first-class administrator. In 1847, aged 28, Edwardes was detached as Political Agent to a remote district on the North West Frontier. Here, with a small Sikh force and the strength of

his own personality, he reformed the administration, settled feuds, built roads and canals and encouraged agricultural improvement. When the 2nd Anglo-Sikh War was in the process of breaking out at Multan, Edwardes found himself nearby with no military support or senior officers to consult. Although nominally a Second Lieutenant he had no formal military training. On his own initiative he raised a body of Pathan irregulars and, joined by a group of loyal Sikhs, he routed the rebel force. There were several more battles before the rebels were besieged in Multan. After negotiations directed by Edwardes the rebels surrendered. He returned to a hero's welcome in England and in Shropshire a pub was renamed the "The Hero of Multan". Whilst in England he married Emma Sidney of Richmond, where he had gone to school.

Back in India Edwardes became concerned by the growing strength of Russia and argued for a strong and independent Afghanistan by the signing of a British Treaty of Friendship. Although this was opposed by the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab, the Governor General of India agreed, and the treaty was signed in 1855. A non-interference clause was vital in maintaining calm in the Punjab during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

In 1859 aged 40 Edwardes returned to England in poor health as a result of the continual strain of hard work. In 1860 he spoke at the Wenlock Olympian Games. In 1862 in improved health he returned to India and a senior administrative post in the Punjab. By 1865 aged 46 he returned to England exhausted and again in poor health. He died in London aged 49 unable to take up the post of Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to which he had been appointed.

Edwardes had been a devout Christian and encouraged missionaries to come to India which led to the foundation of Christian schools. Although criticized for this by some of his contemporaries I believe that his Christian values made him a fair and highly regarded administrator. Although largely forgotten in his home country that is not the case in Pakistan where a high school and college are named after him. Much more about his life is to be found in Wikipedia and books written by him and his wife.

In the next edition I will tell the story of a lad born into a poor local family in 1783 who got a grant to go to Cambridge University.

*Ron Repath*

## What's that bug: Dung beetles

Dung beetles are holometabolous insects in the Scarabaeoidea superfamily (Order: Coleoptera). Being holometabolous means that the young stages are recognisably different from the adults (i.e. they undergo complete metamorphosis), passing through the stages of egg, larva, pupa and imago.

### What do they eat?

Dung beetles, as the name suggests, mainly feed on faeces (aka dung, poo). Some species prefer certain animals' dung like the *Onthophagus joannae*, which likes sheep poo. *Volinus sticticus* on the other hand it is also happy to feed on horse poo, and many *Aphodius* spp. are not that fussy with poo. However, manure heaps can get far too hot for Dung beetles and they much rather have a regular supply of dung around the field. In a few days, Dung beetles can go through a whole pile of poo releasing nutrients back into the soil. Moreover, it has been found that cow pats colonised by Dung beetles had

significantly less parasitic larvae than the pats without them. Alternating grazing between cattle and sheep can help to further decrease parasite numbers.

### How can they be found?

You might go past Dung beetles on a regular basis without realising it and this is because some species can be quite abundant on grazing fields. They can have preference for sunny or shady areas, and for light or heavy soil depending on the species. *Aphodius* spp. can sometimes be spotted on the surface of dung, but Dung beetles often live inside the dung or in the soil underneath it. The latter are known as tunnellers because they dig extensive underground tunnels which helps with soil aeration and drainage. Close encounters with Dung beetles might occur during their dispersal when out for a stroll as they "hitchhike" on your clothing (e.g. picture with white background).

*Ana Natalio and Nick Antill*



*Aphodius* sp.



*Onthophagus* sp



## THINGS TO BE DOING IN YOUR GARDEN RIGHT NOW (EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A GARDENER)

Bird breeding season is now in full swing, and you may find that your bird table or feeder is a hive of activity. Garden and woodland birds time their breeding so that young hatch at a time when there is plenty of natural food, such as earthworms in the case of blackbirds and thrushes, and caterpillars for tits and chaffinches. However, climate change, and the usual vagaries of the British climate, may mean that these natural food sources are not always available.

To give garden birds an extra hand at this time, offer mealworms as these are the closest alternative to fresh worms and caterpillars. You can also help by turning over soil in a sheltered part of your garden to let birds forage for worms (you'll find that blackbirds and robins will quickly locate any patches of freshly dug ground!). Other foods that can be safely fed include over-ripe apples and pears, banana and grapes. Avoid putting out peanuts, fat and bread at this time, as they can be harmful to baby birds. Commercial seed mixes without peanuts should be fine!

With dry summer weather on the horizon, it can also be helpful to provide water for visiting birds, for drinking and for bathing. A wide, shallow basin is best, and make sure the water is changed regularly. Site any water container out in the open, so that birds can have a clear view of any lurking predators!

The weather is getting warmer, but there is a risk of cold snaps and night frosts until the end of May. If you have bought trays of bedding plants or plug plants, or have started your own seedlings from scratch, make sure you don't get over-eager and plant them out too early. Acclimatise them by leaving them outside during the day for a week or so, and bringing them under cover at night. Let them harden off a little more by leaving them outside day and night for another week before planting them out into their final positions.

Slugs and snails can spell disaster for tender young plants and even for the new shoots of established plants. Everyone has their own remedy for these pests (some kinder than others).

Beer traps are a perennial favourite - take a small container (about 4cm deep) fill it with about 2.5cm of beer, and place near to the plants you want to defend. For best results, make a shallow depression for the container, so that the rim is about 1cm above the soil. Slugs will be attracted to the beer, fall in and drown (hopefully quite happily).

To put off, rather than destroy, slugs, you can try placing used coffee grounds or ground up eggshells around your young plants. Copper bands can also be used to dissuade slugs - sticky backed copper strips can be bought to stick around plant pots, or can be used to create individual protectors for plants in borders. Cut a cylinder from a used plastic bottle or other container, add a band of copper strip, and place over the plant.

....STOP PRESS.... Now that garden centres and nurseries have been given permission to re-open, the gardening world is your oyster. Enjoy your summer!

*Chris Harrison*

DON'T FORGET TO COME OUT AND CHEER, CLAP, WHISTLE OR BANG A SAUCEPAN ON THURSDAYS AT 8PM TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE HEALTHCARE STAFF (DOCTORS, NURSES, PARAMEDICS, AMBULANCE DRIVERS, CLEANERS AND OTHERS) WHO ARE PUTTING THEIR OWN HEALTH ON THE LINE TO KEEP US ALL FIT AND WELL.

AND LET'S ALSO REMEMBER THE CARE HOME STAFF, SHOP WORKERS, DELIVERY DRIVERS, POSTMEN AND WOMEN, REFUSE COLLECTORS, POLICE, FIRE BRIGADE, SCHOOL STAFF AND FARMERS WHO ARE CARRYING ON WORKING TO KEEP THE COUNTRY RUNNING SMOOTHLY. THANK YOU!

